

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PANAMA 04163 071840Z

64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

OMB-01 AID-20 CU-04 RSR-01 /128 W

----- 027538

R 071758Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8172

INFO USUN NEW YORK 378

GOV PANCANAL

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 4163

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PN, UNGA

SUBJ: TORRIJOS TO SEND FONMIN TO UNGA

SUMMARY: TORRIJOS TOLD AID DIRECTOR AUGUST 6 HE WILL SEND FONMIN TACK TO UNGA IN SEPTEMBER, BECAUSE US LEAVES HIM NO CHOICE. HE ALSO COMMENTED FAVORABLY ABOUT AMBASSADOR BUNKER. HE CLEARLY INTIMATED NEED FOR EARLY USG ACTION ON CANAL PROBLEM. HE ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT ACTIVITIES OF LEFTIST STUDENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING MEETING WITH AID DIRECTOR ON AUGUST 6, GENERAL TORRIJOS COMMENTED THAT HE WOULD SEND FOREIGN MINISTER TACK TO UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN SEPTEMBER. HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT DOING SO BECAUSE HE DID NOT WISH TO IRRITATE US FURTHER. HE WAS AWARE SOMETHING IS BREWING IN WASHINGTON TO ADVANCE NEGOTIATIONS, BUT HE COULD HARDLY EXPLAIN TO THE PEOPLE THAT HE IS NOT GOING TO SEND TACK TO UNGA BECAUSE OF SOME UNKNOWN OFFER HE WAS EXPECTING. THIS WOULD BE A WEAK EXCUSE. HE SAID THAT HE WAS IN A BIND, HAVING BEEN IN POWER FIVE YEARS WITH NOTHING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PANAMA 04163 071840Z

TO SHOW ON CANAL TREATY NEGOTIATIONS. THESE

NEGOTIATIONS WOULD HAVE A TENTH ANNIVERSARY VERY SHORTLY, AND WHILE HE COULD BLAME FIRST FIVE YEARS OF FAILURE ON THE OLIGARCHY, HE HAD TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SECOND FIVE YEARS. HE HOPED THAT US WOULD BE TALKING TO HIM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

2. TORRIJOS ALSO INQUIRED CONCERNING AMBASSADOR BUNKER. AFTER AID DIRECTOR SAID BUNKER WAS VERY ENERGETIC, INTELLIGENT FINE PERSON, TORRIJOS RESPONDED HE HAD BEEN SO INFORMED AND ON RECENT OCCASION BEFORE STUDENTS, WHO HAD BEEN REPROACHING HIM FOR ACCEPTING "SUCH A HARDLINER," HE HAD DEFENDED BUNKER BY TELLING STUDENTS APPOINTMENT OF BUNKER DEMONSTRATED US REGARDED PANAMA AS IMPORTANT AS VIET CONG AND IT WAS GOOD TO HAVE SOMEONE IMPORTANT WHO COULD BRING PANAMA PROBLEM BEFORE US PRESIDENT FOR CONSIDERATION. HE IMPLIED HE DID NOT THINK PANAMA'S POINT OF VIEW HAD REACHED HIGHEST LEVELS OF USG.

3. TORRIJOS REMARKED HE WAS QUITE DISTURBED BY BEHAVIOR OF SOME STUDENTS HE HAD TRUSTED HAD HOPED WOULD BECOME PANAMANIAN NATIONALISTS. IF THEY DID NOT CHANGE THEIR BEHAVIOR IN SUPPORT OF PANAMANIAN NATIONALISM TO EXCLUSION OF ALL FOREIGN IDEOLOGIES, HE WOULD SHIP THEM OUT OF COUNTRY. IN RESPONSE TO REMARK ABOUT DETERIORATING SITUATION AT UNIVERSITY, TORRIJOS REPLIED THAT HE WAS AWARE OF PROBLEMS AT UNIVERSITY, THEN REMINDED AID DIRECTOR THAT HIS TACTICS RE STUDENTS HAD KEPT THEM AWAY FROM FOURTH OF JULY AVENUE FOR 5 YEARS.

4. COMMENT: TORRIJOS CLEARLY INTIMATED HIS HOPE FOR EARLY USG ACTION TO GIVE HIM SOMETHING TO HELP HIM FACE THE PUBLIC. HE WAS ALSO SAYING THE OBVIOUS: THAT HE WILL CONTINUE TO APPLY PRESSURE ON US UNTIL SATISFACTORY SOLUTION TO CANAL QUESTION IS FOUND. TORRIJOS APPEARS TO BE ON VERGE OF TAKING HARDER LINE AGAINST LEFTIST ACTIVITIES AT UNIVERSITY.
THOMPSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PANAMA04163
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS THOMPSON
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730853/aaaabmzz.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23-Jan-2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <12 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TORRIJOS TO SEND FONMIN TO UNGA SUMMARY: TORRIJOS TOLD AID DIRECTOR AUGUST 6 HE WILL
TAGS: ASEC, IN, UNGA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005